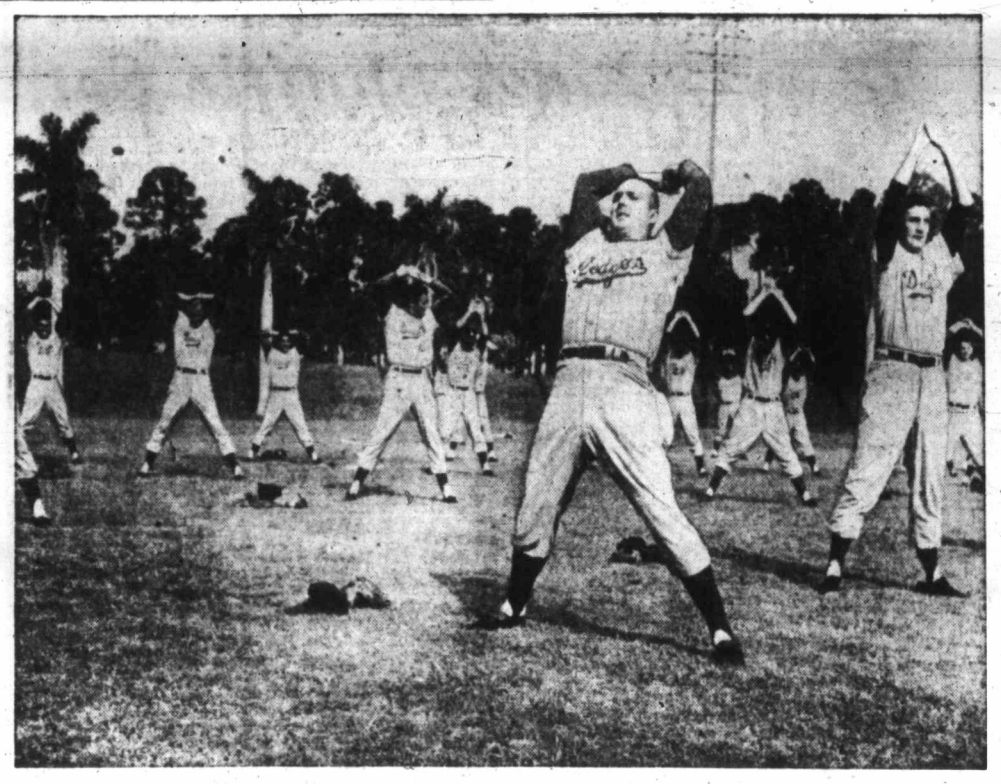


Hup, Two, Three—Squish!

All preparation and no baseball about sums up the situation in Florida, where continuous rain has brought spring training to a virtual standstill. In one of the few brief flashes of sunshine, Los Angeles Dodgers got in some calisthenics under the direction of veteran pitcher Carl Erskine (foreground).

★ ★ ★

Toronto Nears Playoff; Detroit Hollers 'Foul'

MONTREAL—Toronto Maple Leafs charged into a contending spot for the fourth playoff spot in the National Hockey League here last night while New York Rangers and Detroit Red Wings screamed "foul" at Montreal Canadiens.

Canadiens, oblivious to the playoff race far below them, used two substitute goalies against the Leafs last night, and the Toronto club took advantage of the opportunity to blast them, 6-3, and strengthen their chances for a fourth-place finish.

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	Pt.
Montreal	68	38	17	13	251	152	89
Boston	68	31	28	9	200	208	71
Chicago	68	27	28	13	192	202	67
New York	68	25	31	12	194	211	62
Toronto	68	25	32	11	178	196	61
Detroit	68	25	35	8	161	207	58

Last night's score: Toronto 6 at Montreal 3.

Next games: Saturday, New York at Detroit; Chicago at Toronto; Boston at Montreal.

Victory left the Leafs only one point behind the skidding Rangers and three ahead of Detroit, and with two games remaining for each club, any one of the three could conceivably walk off with the fourth playoff berth.

Leafs play Chicago in Toronto Saturday and the Wings in Detroit Sunday. Rangers play at Detroit Saturday and Montreal in New York Sunday.

Canadiens announced yesterday that regular goalie Jacques Plante would be out of action with a severe boil infection of the chin. They used Claude Pronovost and Claude Cyr in his place last night, and announced that since they "wanted to be fair," they would not use Plante against the Rangers Sunday.

It set up a weird situation. Both Detroit and New York thought Plante should have been used last night, but the Rangers were understandably more reluctant to say he should be used Sunday.

NOT STRONGEST

General manager Jack Adams of Detroit charged that by not using Plante Sunday if he was able to play the Canadiens would be violating league rules by not placing its strongest team on the ice.

League president Clarence Campbell would not comment, other than to say he had a medical certificate authorizing Plante's replacement last night, and that "it is a club's responsibility to ice its strongest team, and that will apply in this situation."

NERVOUS TYPE

Pronovost, called up from Montreal Royals of the Quebec Hockey League, was obviously nervous in the two periods he worked last night, and gave up five goals. Cyr, of the Ottawa-Hull Junior Canadiens, let in one of seven shots in the third period.

There was one consolation for the Canadiens. Their three goals brought their total to 251, one more than the league record they set last year. Phil Goyette, Ab McDonald and Marcel Bonin did the scoring, while league-leading Dickie Moore was held to a single assist and Jean Beliveau went pointless.

Dick Duff paced the Leafs with his 27th and 28th goals of the season. Bob Pulford, Gerry Ehman and George Armstrong got the other goals.

FIRST PERIOD

1. Montreal, Goyette (Turner) 12.04.
2. Toronto, Duff (Baun, Armstrong) 13.50.
3. Toronto, Olmstead 17.30.

Penalties: Beliveau 1.33, 8.04, Horton 8.04, Brewer 8.45.

SECOND PERIOD

4. Toronto, Pulford (Stewart, Horton) 3.25.
5. Toronto, Ehman (Harris, Baun) 5.07.
6. Montreal, McDonald (H. Richard, Backstrom) 7.21.
7. Montreal, Bonin (Moore, Johnson) 8.56.
8. Toronto, Duff (Regan, Brewer) 13.27.

Penalty: Baun 2.47.

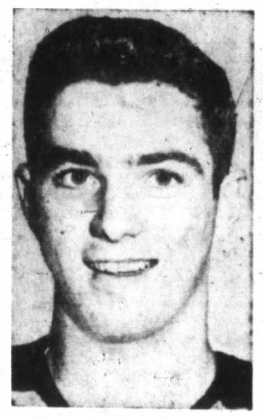
THIRD PERIOD

9. Toronto, Armstrong (Baun, Regan) 9.15.

Penalties: Olmstead, Bonin .50, Johnson 9.25.

Stops:

Bower	15	9	7—29
Pronovost	12	5	—17
Cyr			6—6



DICK DUFF . . . two goals

Third Spot Now Safe For Cougars

SPOKANE — Seattle Totems backed Victoria Cougars into third place in the western division of the Western Hockey League here last night, ramming home three goals in the third period for a 5-4 victory over Spokane Spokes.

Spokes, with only two games remaining, could tie the Cougars in total points by winning twice while the Cougars lose two, but even then the Victoria club would be given the position on the basis of a better won-lost record.

Rudy Filion scored the winner for the Totems last night with 51 seconds remaining in regulation time on a play with Gerry Leonard and Bill MacFarland to climax the comeback.

At 1.29 of the period, Ching Johnson had given the Sopkes an apparently safe 4-2 lead with his 39th goal of the season. But a minute later Les Hunt bounced a shot past Emile Francis to cut the margin to a single goal.

Then, after Seattle goalie Bev Bentley had made a series of sparkling saves to hold off the pressing Spokes, MacFarland tied it up at 12.43 on a pass from scoring leader Guyle Fielder.

Filion got his goal as he drove in to pick up a rebound after Francis had made a fine save on MacFarland. Francis was pulled from the nets for an extra forward in the final minute, but Bentley was equal to the task of stopping the Spokes.

STARTED FAST

Spokes started quickly on a first-period goal by Max Mekilok. Ron Attwell made it 2-0 before the period ended, and Del Toppoll intercepted a pass to score at 7.02 of the second.

Totems recovered midway in the period and Leonard and Dave Rimstad scored to cut the margin to 3-2 going into the final period.

WESTERN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Seattle	68	38	27	3	264	217	79
Vancouver	68	29	28	11	206	208	69
VICTORIA	68	29	35	4	210	244	62
Spokane	68	26	36	6	211	261	58
New Westmr	68	23	43	2	231	291	48

EASTERN DIVISION

Calgary	62	41	20	1	253	188	83
Edmonton	62	32	27	3	197	197	65
Saskatoon	62	29	29	4	206	194	62
Winnipeg	62	29	31	2	249	227	60

Last night's score: Seattle 5 at Spokane 4.

Next games: tonight, Spokane at Vancouver, Calgary at Edmonton, Saskatoon at Winnipeg.

Seattle — Goal: Bentley; defence: Hunt, Sinclair, Arnett, Rimstad; forwards: Filion, Fielder, McVie, Fonteyne, Boileau, MacFarland, Leonard, Davidson.

Spokane — Goal: Francis; defence: Lanclen, Woit, Williams, Hodges; forwards: Attwell, Bradley, Lund, A. Johnson, Topoll, Bell, C. Johnson, Mekilok, Boyce.

Refreree: Al Paradice; linesmen: Johnny Ursaki, Doug Carrigan.

FIRST PERIOD

1. Spokane, Mekilok (Woit) 3.56.
2. Spokane, Attwell 7.34.

Penalties: Arnett 12.00, 19.39, Bell 13.55, Hodges 19.05, Arnett 19.39.

SECOND PERIOD

3. Spokane, Topoll 7.02.
4. Seattle, Leonard (MacFarland, Davidson) 11.32.
5. Seattle, Rimstad (Arnett) 12.22.

Penalties: Hunt :22, Mekilok 4.17.

THIRD PERIOD

6. Spokane, C. Johnson (Mekilok) 1.29.
7. Seattle, Hunt 2.54.
8. Seattle, MacFarland (Fielder, Boileau) 12.43.
9. Seattle, Filion (Leonard, MacFarland) 19.09.

Penalties: Arnett 6.54, Leonard 8.30, Arnett, Woit 11.15, Bell, Rimstad (majors) 13.26, Sinclair 14.14.

Stops:

Bentley	5	7	18—30
Francis	8	9	4—21

TENNIS MEETING

Annual general meeting of the B.C. Electric Tennis Club will be held Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Blue Room, 1303 Broad St.

VIEWS of SPORT

By Red Smith

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Sal Maglie looks like a Roman friar in one of those orders that specialize in jumping on grapes or maybe illuminating the parchment pages of sacred writings. There is an Old Testament cast to the elongated visage with the deep and mournful eyes. The hair, thinning a trifle more noticeably with each passing year, makes way now for a monk's gleaming tonsure behind the two dark tufts which top the lofty brow.

The speech is soft and mild, the demeanor is that of a brooding scholastic, until he gets a baseball in his paw and plants his spikes against the pitcher's rubber. Then the gentle ecclesiastic vanishes. What the batter sees is a tall figure of menace, expressionless as an executioner, who throws too close.

According to the book, Sal is six weeks short of his 42nd birthday. For two hours he had been out with the youngsters sweating in the sun. The nude spot on his skull glistened with perspiration. A visitor in the Cardinals' club house nudged a companion.

"Look at him. He was a professional pitcher before some of the kids in here were born. There are guys here who weren't two years old when he went on the voluntarily retired list."

The guy raised his voice. "Sal, why were you retired in 1943 and '44? Sore arm?"

"The war," Maglie said, "I was in a defence plant. Steamfitter."

"There's an unusual feature about your record," the guy said. "I was just reading up on you and it struck me. Your first three years in baseball, you couldn't win at all in Buffalo. You were 0 and one the first year, and then three and seven, then 0 and seven."

Maglie was nodding, anticipating the question. "The record shows no sign of normal progress," the fellow went on, "no trace of improvement. Then all of a sudden you were a 20-game winner. You're zero and seven for Buffalo in 1940, and 20 and 15 for Elmira in 1941. What happened?"

He Got to Pitch

"I got to pitch," Maglie said. He spoke so quietly the answer was misunderstood.

"You got the pitch?" the man asked, thinking Sal meant he had added a special delivery to his equipment, like a screw ball or sinker or knuckler.

"No," Maglie said, "I got to pitch. In Elmira they let me play, that was all."

"You see," he said, "Buffalo was home. I was just a kid growing up there. I was trying too hard because I was pitching in front of people I knew. A kid'll do that sometimes. In Elmira I was away from home and I knew they were counting on me as a regular and I knew I had a job where I'd get to take my regular turn. If I lost a game, I knew I'd be back for my next turn. So I won 20."

It was after that season that the Giants got him and sent him to Jersey City. Then came the two war-time years when he was out of baseball, then a season divided between Jersey City and the Polo Grounds, then three years in the Mexican League..

The border-jumpers, suspended for bolting to Mexico, were reinstated in time for Maglie to rejoin the Giants in 1950. That was the year he made it as a big leaguer, winning 18 games and losing four. Twelve seasons had passed since his rookie year with Buffalo, and he was only beginning.

In the pennant year of 1951—the year of the Miracle of Coogan's Bluff—he won 23 and lost six. The next season it was 18 and eight. In Brooklyn, mention of his name was forbidden in mixed company. A man would have been flung off Brooklyn Bridge for suggesting that by 1956 Sal would be a no-hit pitcher for the Dodgers helping them to win a pennant.

"What's so special about your curve?" Maglie was asked. "Hitters always talked about your curve. What made it different from others?"

"I don't know," Sal said. "It's natural for me. I throw it off the fast ball motion. It breaks more like a spitter."

In an article published during the winter under the name of Bill Rigney, Maglie was honored by inclusion in a group accused of employing the moist, unmentionable saliva pitch. The Giants' manager had no evidence on his side, just a suspicious nature.

"You say your curve breaks like a spitter?" Maglie was asked.

"Yeh, a lot."

"But it ain't?"

"No."

"Not now, anyhow. Not until you're retired."

"No," Sal said, "I never lie. I couldn't throw a spitter, I use too much resin."

The long, dark face remained solemn.

"A writer came through the other day," he said, "on his way to Arizona. Asked me if I had any message for Rigney. I said, 'Yes, tell him I'm working on my spitter.'"

Ball Teams Soaking In Florida 'Sunshine'

MIAMI, Fla.—Florida is traditionally called "The Sunshine State," but residents can be excused today if they respond to the slogan with a hollow laugh. They have their reasons.

Horse races at Sunshine Park near Tampa have been cancelled. The parking lot is flooded.

The Sun 'n' Fun Festival at Clearwater is about to throw in the sponge. No sun, no fun.

Major league baseball teams holding spring training in the Tampa Bay area are stymied. They haven't been on the diamonds since Sunday. It has rained every day since.

Los Angeles Dodgers and Cincinnati Redlegs gave up yesterday and flew to Havana in search of sunshine.

The $15,000 St. Petersburg Open golf tournament was postponed yesterday, marking the fourth straight tourney in which a postponement of a day or more was necessary because of unfavorable weather.

These are only a few examples of what an unwelcome monsoon season is doing to the sunshine state.

Only in Arizona, where the sun always shines, are they getting in any baseball. Two games were played yesterday.

Boston Red Sox won their 10th in 11 games, 2-1, over Chicago Cubs. Tom Brewer gave up only one run in six innings, a homer to Bobby Thomson.

San Francisco Giants jumped on Herb Score for seven runs in the first three innings, and went on to defeat Cleveland Indians, 9-6. Minnie Minoso and Woody Held hit homers for Cleveland, while rookie Andre Rodgers clouted two and Orlando Cepeda, Bresoud and White hit once each for the Giants.

Cleveland	000 032 100	6	12	0
San Francisco	412 020 00x	9	13	1

Score, Cicotte (5) and Naragon; Sanford, Giel (6) and Schmidt. Home runs: Cleveland, Minoso, Held; San Francisco, Bresoud, Cepeda, Rodgers (2), White.

Boston	002 000 000	2	4	1
Chicago (N)	010 000 000	1	6	1

Brewer, Wall (7) and H. Sullivan; Hillman, Martin (9) and S. Taylor. Home run: Chicago, Thomson.

The following games were cancelled because of rain: Pittsburgh vs. Cincinnati, Philadelphia vs. Chicago A, St. Louis vs. Los Angeles, Milwaukee vs. Kansas City, Washington vs. New York.

Spiel Draw For Service

Play in the club championship and consolation events of the Civil Service Curling Club will resume Saturday at the Victoria Curling Club.

Draws:

8 a.m. draw—Stewart vs. Wickes; Allison vs. Glew; Spilsbury vs. Kidd; MacDonald vs. Lejeune; Lavoie vs. D. MacLeod; Gilbart vs. Dysart; Hughes vs. Edgelow; Gray vs. Westaway.

10 a.m. draw—Terlson vs. Woodward; Fisher vs. R. Davis; Ashby vs. Dickins; Austin vs. Macdonel; King vs. Clancy; H. Davis vs. Gerrie; Passmore vs. Caughlin; Fox vs. A. MacLeod.

12 noon—Sharpe vs. Pick; Douglas vs. winner MacDonald-Lejeune; winner Allison-Glew vs. winner Spilsbury-Kidd; Simon vs. Fraser; Shipton; Millin vs. Fernyhough; Tivy vs. winner Stewart-Wickes; Penman vs. Bremner.

Fletcher Returns As Boxla Chief

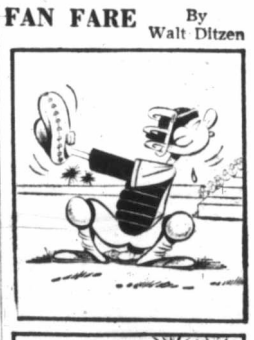
Two perennials in lacrosse were returned to office last night at the annual meeting of the Greater Victoria Box Lacrosse Association.

Doug Fletcher was elected president for the 17th time in 18 years, and Charlie Thomas was elected treasurer for the 18th consecutive season.

Other officers elected were Roy Woolsey, first vice-president; Hec McNeill, second vice-president; Alex McDonald, third vice-president; Frank Holmes, secretary, and Tom Jennings, registrar.

It was announced at the meeting that Foul Bay Tugmen, Jokers and Junior Shamrocks will all play in the senior "B" league again this season.

FAN FARE By Walt Ditzen



Cougars Begin Playoffs Against Seattle on Friday

SEATTLE — Victoria Cougars will open their best-of-five western division Western Hockey League semi-final series next Friday against the first-place Totems in Seattle.

Western division playoff positions were settled last night, when the Totems defeated Spokane Spokes to clinch third place for the Cougars.

Spokes kick off the western division playoffs Tuesday night in Vancouver, opening their semi-final against the Canucks. Canucks and Spokes play in Vancouver again Friday, and the semis switch to Spokane and Victoria Saturday. Cougars play the third game of their series in Seattle on Sunday.

Things are more complicated in the eastern division, where Winnipeg Warriors trail Saskatoon Quakers by only two points in the battle for the last playoff spot.

In the event of a tie for third place, a sudden-death playoff will be held Tuesday and the semi-finals will open in Edmonton Friday.

If there is no tie, the semis will start in Edmonton Tuesday, with the second game set there Thursday. The best-of-five series would then switch to the home of the third-place team for the next two games, Saturday and the following Tuesday, then back to Edmonton April 2 for the fifth game if necessary.

Twin Bill Set For Brentwood

Two basketball games are scheduled for the Brentwood Community Hall Friday night.

Brentwood hosts Sooke in a midget girls' game at 7.30 and Brentwood and Sooke meet in a bantam boys' contest at 8.30.

Dear Natasha: 'Play Chess'

LONDON (UPI) — Moscow radio, in a special broadcast aimed at Russia's younger set, has warned them of the dangers of vodka and horse racing.

The broadcast did it by reading an imaginary letter written by a Soviet youth to his girl friend Natasha describing an outing at a race track:

"The excitement here, Natasha, is of a very particular kind. Apart from a few genuine enthusiasts people come here with only one aim in mind—to snatch some money.

"After three or four losses you see them all running all over the place looking for other losers to pool their money with because they haven't got enough cash for the next stake.

"And despite a special decree by the Moscow City soviet (city council), alcoholic drinks are on sale at the Hippodrome (track)" the letter continues.

"I fully support Literaturnaya Gazeta (a Soviet magazine) which recently demanded the closing of the totalisator (paramutuel betting).

"This dirty gambling is spoiling our young people, accustoming them to live on the improper gains of gambling."

The letter ended with a plea to Natasha: "Please find out if among your friends there are some who spend their nights playing cards among tobacco fumes or to whom the Hippodrome has become a second shift."

The writer recommended to Natasha and other young Soviet citizens that they take up chess and skating during their leisure.

Lakers Win Semi

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Rookie sensation Elgin Baylor scored 30 points here Wednesday and Minneapolis Lakers dropped in 73 points in the second half to whip Detroit Pistons, 129-102, to win the National Basketball Association's western division semi-final.

Lakers now face St. Louis Hawks in a seven-game series to determine the western division champion. The winner then plays another seven-game series with the winner of the current Boston-Syracuse eastern division final to determine the NBA champion.

The Tackle Box

Trout Best Bet at Weekend

BY JIM TANG

Fishing reports yesterday were practically unchanged from a week ago, which means there isn't too much doing as regards salmon, some spotty steelheading and fair trout fishing in lower Island lakes.

Bad weather has kept most anglers away from water, particularly salt water. Best salmon report comes from Brentwood, where bluebacks are still to be had off Henderson Point and Indian Bay. Fishing was good Wednesday afternoon with Bill Smith one of the more successful, getting his limit of eight while fishing a red-and-white bucktail fly. Charlie Guiguet and Stan Williams pulled in four and several other anglers ranged between four and a limit.

Elsewhere, not enough anglers have been out to get a clear picture but there were no reports of good fishing. A few springs are being taken off Oak Bay and some in the five-to-six-pound class have been boated off Arbutus Rock in Satellite Channel.

★ ★ ★

Prospects for steelheading are the best in the Cowichan and Salmon Rivers, the latter a long haul from Victoria. The Cowichan has a fair number of fish, both above and below Skutz Falls. Some are yet to spawn while early spawners are cleaning up and about ready to head for salt water. The Spin-N-Glo and salmon-egg fly are the best of the artificial lure and roe, of course, is getting a fair share of fish.

There is also some fairish trout fishing in the Cowichan, most trout having spawned and many of them cleaned up. Prospects look fair for the weekend and should be good for Easter weekend.

Further north, most rivers are too low for good fishing. The exceptions are the Campbell, which is yielding fish every day, and the Salmon, which has been good most of the month and was probably the best river on the east coast of the Island last weekend. There were also reports of a fine run of steelhead in the Chemainus, some anglers having had good success just below the bridge. The Puntledge, Oyster, Tsolum and Quinsam are all low.

★ ★ ★

Best fresh-water fishing has been in south Island lakes with Shawnigan perhaps the best of all. Ernie Todd and George Corkle limited on Wednesday afternoon although stormy weather gave little promise of good fishing. Jack Gray, Creagh Allen and Roy Watson also did well at Shawnigan.

Small flys—Nos. 10-12, such as the March Brown and teal and yellow and orange and yellow, spinner and worm and small wobblers have all been taking fish. Flys are effective trolled or fished wet, many anglers using a greased line and getting their fly an inch or two under.

Procedure for fly fishing in Dugan's Lake another good spot, is a bit different. Here, best results have been obtained fishing deep.

There have been good rises of trout on Kemp Lake but anglers often have trouble making a score on this body of water. The general belief is that an abundance of feed makes Kemp Lake trout hard to lure.

Still another good spot is Shawnigan Lake, where anglers have been doing well on the troll in the Narrows and off Goat Island. Spinner and worm is as effective as ever and flatfish and small wobblers are also taking their share of fish.